

From: Patricia Wilson
To: Spill Notification, EQWQ.MSCHMITZ, EQWQ.NGUINN, EQ...
Date: 5/22/96 12:15pm
Subject: Incident Notification # 96176

DEQ INCIDENT NOTIFICATION

INCIDENT: 96176 REPORTED TO: Helen Sadik-Macdonald

REPORTING PARTY

NAME: Anonymous TITLE:
COMPANY:
PHONE: DATE REPORTED: 05/17/96 TIME: 14:30:00
INCIDENT DATE: TIME: ENDING DATE: TIME:

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

NAME/FIRM: Hecla Mining
ADDRESS: Coeur d'Alene, ID
TELEPHONE: (208) 769-4100

INCIDENT SUMMARY

Caller reported to DSWH that pits being excavated at Apex mill site were off-gasing an ammonia-like odor and making people sick. The material is being excavated from a former pond. Is a solid when picked up then turns to a liquid sludge that corrodes steel of pick-ups. Hecla is reclaiming the pits as part of the sales agreement with OMG Apex, the buyer. OMG is going to extract cobalt from tailings and imported feed stock. In the past, germanium, gallium, iron, and copper have been extracted. Hecla used a sulfuric acid leach that was neutralized with lime, limestone, kerosene and ammonia before entering ponds. Workers have been issued respirators. Health & Safety officer says they don't all wear them.

ADDRESS/LOCATION: OMG Apex mill on Shiwits Reservation

NEAREST CITY: Shiwits COUNTY: Washington
HIGHWAY: MILEMARKER:

IN/NEAR WATER: no WATERWAY NAME: NONE
FIRE?: no INJURIES?: no NUMBER: 0 FATALITIES: no NUMBER: 0

NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER NOTIFIED(Y/N): no NRC REPORT #:

NOTIFICATIONS MADE FOR THIS INCIDENT

AGENCY: DSHW
PERSON: Allan Moore
DATE: 05/21/96 TIME: 12:00:00

AGENCY: DSHW

M/053/004
Incident associated
with Hecla's offsite
millsite (not
regulated
by DOWM
or DEQ)
* Located on Shiwits
Indian Reservation
(EPA jurisdiction)

PERSON: Allan Moore
DATE: 05/21/96 TIME: 14:30:00

AGENCY: DOGM
PERSON: L. Braxton, W. Hedberg
DATE: 05/21/96 TIME: 12:40:00

AGENCY: DOGM
PERSON: L. Braxton, W. Hedberg
DATE: 05/21/96 TIME: 15:00:00

AGENCY: DIA
PERSON: Leela Beaudry
DATE: 05/21/96 TIME: 15:20:00

AGENCY: BLM
PERSON: Ross Workman
DATE: 05/21/96 TIME: 13:30:00

AGENCY: BLM
PERSON: Larry Gore
DATE: 05/21/96 TIME: 13:40:00

AGENCY: DERR
PERSON: Scott Hacking
DATE: 05/21/96 TIME: 11:30:00

AGENCY: Hecla Mining
PERSON: Allan Wilson
DATE: 05/21/96 TIME: 15:30:00

AGENCY:
PERSON: (208) 769-4100
DATE: TIME:

AGENCY: OMG Apex
PERSON: Penny Bassett
DATE: 05/21/96 TIME: 15:45:00

AGENCY:
PERSON: (801) 628-1635
DATE: TIME:

AGENCY: EPA
PERSON: Cliff Mosher
DATE: 05/21/96 TIME:

LEAD AGENCY & CONTACT: EPA-ERB - Cliff Mosher
PHONE NUMBER: (303) 312-6510

DERR ASSISTANCE PROVIDED FOR THIS INCIDENT

RESPONDERS: Helen Sadik-Macdonald
Fact finding - locating mine, responsible party(ies),
jurisdiction.